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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78162

Yoshiyuki FUKUMOTO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/697,124

Group Art Unit: 2627

Confirmation No.: 8462

Examiner: Jefferson A. EVANS

Filed: October 31, 2003

For: MAGNETORESISTANCE DEVICE WITH A DIFFUSION BARRIER BETWEEN A CONDUCTOR AND A MAGNETORESISTANCE ELEMENT AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

01/24/2007 HMARZI1 00000096 10697124

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

01 FC:1865

180.00 OP

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. International Patent Application Publication No. 01/71735, published September 27, 2001.
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 10-65232, published March 6, 1998 (previously submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 1, 2004).
3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2003-324187, published November 14, 2003.
4. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2004-519859, published July 2, 2004.

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5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-158381, published May 31, 2002 (previously submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 1, 2004).
6. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-237471, published August 31, 2001 (previously submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 1, 2004).
7. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 10-269532, published October 9, 1998.
8. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-84756, published March 30, 2001.
9. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-163810, published June 7, 2002.
10. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-25013, published January 25, 2002.
11. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2-195284, published August 1, 1990.
12. United States Patent No. 6,801,414, issued October 5, 2004.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the U.S. patent and those indicated as previously submitted. The above listed United States Patent was cited in the December 1, 2006, Office Action issued in related U.S. Patent Application No. 10/539,373.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action, dated November 27, 2006, and an English translation of the pertinent portions

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/697,124

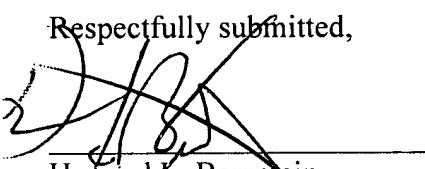
Atty. Docket No.: Q78162

thereof which cites such documents and indicates the degree for relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 23, 2007



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement, except for those indicated as previously submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard L. Bernstein".

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 23, 2007

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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 A & B (08-03)

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/697,124
				Confirmation Number	8462
				Filing Date	October 31, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Yoshiyuki FUKUMOTO
				Art Unit	2627
				Examiner Name	Jefferson A. EVANS
Sheet		1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number
		Q78162			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 6,801,414	B2	10-05-2004	Amano et al.
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		WO	01/71735	A1	09-27-2001	Motorola, Inc.	
		JP	2003-324187	A	11-14-2003		
		JP	2004-519859	A	07-02-2004		
		JP	10-269532	A	10-09-1998		
		JP	2001-84756	A	03-30-2001		
		JP	2002-163810	A	06-07-2002		
		JP	2002-25013	A	01-25-2002		
		JP	2-195284	A	08-01-1990		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.